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Reports from State and Local Child Labor Committees

CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE, JUVENILE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, LOS ANGELES, CAL.

Conditions in the southern part of the state are practically unchanged.

The Los Angeles District Federation of Women's Clubs continues its successful scholarship work, providing twenty scholarships at \$3.00 per week, at a total outlay of \$1,000. An attempt was made to secure a law providing for county payment of scholarships.

In the recent legislation, compulsory education and child labor laws have gone hand in hand.

Gains: I. The compulsory school age, and the age when a child may work at specified occupations has been raised from fourteen to fifteen,—or to sixteen, if a child cannot read and write English. The special exemptions for children from twelve upwards unfortunately remain.

II. "No minor under the age of eighteen years shall be employed or permitted to work between the hours of ten in the evening and five in the morning." This is a gain of two years in age of the child though a loss of one hour in time (five instead of six o'clock), and the very great gain of prohibiting all work instead of specified occupations. It does away with hurtful newspaper delivery hours, and best of all, with night messenger service for boys under eighteen—a step forward, if not all that is desired.

The new head of the State Bureau of Labor Statistics is said to be peculiarly qualified for the position. Under his able leadership, with better laws and an increased appropriation, it is hoped that notable advance will be made.

The work of the Los Angeles Committee for the coming year seems to be in co-operation with all agencies for the enforcement of the compulsory education and child labor laws, and in a study of the street trades, one of the problems untouched in this state.

The various sections of the state have worked together better than ever before in efforts to secure desirable social legislation.

EVELYN L. STODDART,
Secretary.

APRIL 29, 1911.

SAN FRANCISCO CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

During 1910 photographs were taken of children working at night and, following the taking of these pictures, a careful study was made of the conditions under which the children worked, with the result that at the last meeting of our legislature, a bill was introduced, the essence of which was that no minor under eighteen years of age should be employed, or permitted to work at any gainful occupation between ten in the evening and five in the morning. This bill was signed by Governor Johnson April 17, 1911.

Early in January, 1911, at a meeting of the committee the need of investigating the issuance of age and schooling permits was suggested, and a committee consisting of Miss Griffith and the writer was appointed to look into the matter. Later learning that the Bay County Consumers' League contemplated the same investigation, we joined forces with Miss C. Anita Whitney as representative of the league.

A force of workers was organized, who investigated conditions in San Francisco and in Alameda county and found them not quite in keeping with the best interests of the working child.

This investigation led to the co-operation of a number of school authorities to the end that on the seventeenth day of April, the governor signed a bill which requires that a child between the ages of fourteen and sixteen must have passed a fifth grade examination before entering work; that the family of said child must show need of its earnings and that a position must be assured prior to the issuing of the permit.

Other good features of this law are the placing the proof of age on the parents, their oath not being sufficient if the appearance of the child warrants the belief that the applicant is under fourteen, and the automatic revoking of the permit if the minor has been without regular employment for three months, and still needs to attend school.

Our committee has succeeded in interesting such kindly police co-operation that minors who under the law are permitted to vend papers, gum and the like, are not permitted to visit certain questionable quarters of the city.

J. C. ASTREDO,
*Probation Officer and former Secretary
of San Francisco Child Labor Committee.*

APRIL 20, 1911.

CITIZENS' CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

During 1910 interest in the child labor question in the District of Columbia centered chiefly on the amendment of the existing law which has now been in operation for about three years. That part of the law which relates to the employment of children in industrial, mercantile and similar establishments, seems to have resulted in: first, reducing the number of

employed children under sixteen years of age; secondly, in reducing the working hours to eight per day; thirdly, in obtaining a better selection of children by eliminating through a medical examination those who are unfit for certain occupations; and fourthly, by emphasizing the fact that children under sixteen need special protection, it has impressed the employers and public generally with the need of careful regulation of this phase of child life.

While the regulation of children employed in establishments has given a fair degree of satisfaction, the regulation of children's street trading still shows the need of improvement in legislation. During the passage of the law through Congress, the section relating to penalties for violation of the street trading provisions was unfortunately omitted, so that at present there is no means of punishing the parent or the child who violates the street trading regulations. As the law now stands, children with street trading permits are allowed to remain on the streets until ten o'clock in the evening. This provision has had unfortunate results in that newsboys and street traders of various kinds, under sixteen years of age, are exposed to the undesirable phases of city life. Thanks to the presence of one of the secretaries of the National Child Labor Committee, earnest and persistent efforts have been made during the past year to secure amendments to remedy these defects, but the ever-present difficulty of securing the attention of a national law-making body for a local measure has again been met with during the past session of Congress. While the Senate passed the amendments desired, attention could not be secured to them in the House of Representatives, but it is hoped that at the coming session of Congress, better success will follow the efforts in this direction.

NEEDED: VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

As in other communities, there is a strong demand for the introduction of vocational training in the public schools for the purpose of making the entrance into a trade easier and more profitable for the child at the expiration of the compulsory school attendance period. The difficulty at the present time is well summed up by one of the local superintendents of schools, who explains the desertion of the school by children at the earliest possible moment as follows:

"First—The failure of the present public school curriculum to have studies which will interest and hold pupils in the grammar grades. Second—The element of unrest which is inherent in boys and girls, and which makes itself evident from thirteen to fourteen years of age in a repulsion from abstract work and a yearning for physical activity. Third—The necessity for individual support which presents itself early in life to a large per cent of the world's population. These three, and other causes, leave behind these stern and sad statistics."

MOVING PICTURE SHOW EMPLOYMENTS.

As in other cities, one of the social problems needing careful attention is that of the moving-picture theatre. In addition to the constant supervision necessary to prevent the employment of children under age as ushers, attend-

ants, etc., constant watchfulness is needed in regard to employment of the children as performers. During the year 1910, 151 special permits were granted by the city authorities for children under fourteen years to appear as performers in these theatres. Some complaint is heard from school authorities that children engaged in such performances are not up to the standard of school attendance, scholarship, etc., and it would seem that further restrictions in this connection are advisable.

The official statistics show that during the year 1910, 1987 street trading certificates were issued and 510 certificates for employment in establishments were issued, and that these 510 children were employed in 377 establishments. During the year eighteen violations of the law were prosecuted in the courts.

HENRY J. HARRIS,

Secretary.

DELAWARE CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

Since its organization, the Delaware Child Labor Committee has been engaged in the main, in formulating a new child labor law, which introduced not only certain new features, but also provided amendments and modifications for our existing laws. The committee got its material from laws in successful operation in other states, and added certain original ideas which applied directly to conditions in Delaware.

The completed bill was presented at the last session of the state legislature, and after some difficulty in committee, was reported to the senate favorably. It was changed in a number of ways and modified by mutual agreement before being voted on. The vote in the senate was, however, unanimously against the measure.

After the defeat of the bill, the legislature, at the instigation of those interested, provided that a commission of labor, consisting of five members should be appointed by the superior court, this commission to report back to the legislature at its next regular session, two years hence, outlining clearly existing child labor conditions in the state. No financial provision was made for the maintenance of this commission.

Members of the Delaware Child Labor Committee, in conjunction with other interested persons, are now working on the personnel and for the speedy appointment of this commission.

While your committee has not succeeded in changing the existing child labor regulations, its efforts, in the writer's opinion, have had an excellent moral effect in the community at large, and we believe that results are bound to follow our endeavors in a short time. We feel that it is safe for us to report progress, as specifically shown in the action of the legislature in providing a commission of investigation. Also in arousing public opinion to such a point that supervision and inspection of child labor under the present laws will be made more rigid and efficient.

The Child Labor Committee of Delaware is in its infancy, and I wish to

highly commend the faithful and unselfish work of its members during the past year. Its accomplishments are in direct proportion to its age, experience, and the circumstances surrounding its operations, and I think you may feel assured that the future will bring as its reward the ultimate success for which its members are giving their time and energy.

W. N. BANNARD, JR.,

Secretary.

APRIL 28, 1911.

ILLINOIS CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

On November 2d, 1910, the Consumers' League of Illinois called a representative meeting of clubs and organizations interested in the welfare of the child, to consider the conditions of children engaged in street trades in Illinois as the present child labor law of Illinois does not protect children peddling on the streets.

There was a large response to this meeting. An address was given by Miss Addams. A statement of the situation in Chicago was given by the secretary of the Consumers' League. A representative committee was appointed from the Consumers' League, the Board of Education, the Mothers' Congress, and the Juvenile Protective League, to take immediate steps to regulate street trades of children in Illinois. A bill was drafted, has been introduced in the legislature, and is now in the hands of the industrial and labor committee in Springfield.

It provides for the elimination of boys under ten and girls under sixteen in the trade of boot-blackening, sale or distribution of newspapers, magazines, periodicals, books, or any article of merchandise in a city of 100,000 or more inhabitants (Chicago). Boys under sixteen who are engaged in these trades must secure a permit or badge, conditioned on specified proof of age and school attendance, from the school authorities. Truant and probation officers are required to enforce the law. Sale or distribution of above mentioned articles and the trade of boot-blackening is not permitted to boys under sixteen between ten P. M. and six A. M., nor during school hours, except when boys between fourteen and sixteen have special permission from school authorities to distribute newspapers between four and six A. M. The bill does not affect boys between fifteen and sixteen legally employed during school hours. The penalty provision (not more than one hundred dollars) includes persons in control of children violating the provisions of the act; employers; those who knowingly furnish or sell to a child under sixteen any of the articles referred to with knowledge that child intends to sell such in violation of act. Boy violating shall be brought before court with jurisdiction over delinquent, dependent and neglected children, and "dealt with according to law."

THE STAGE FIGHT.

An attempt is being made by "The National Alliance for the Protection of Stage Children" to bring about a measure allowing children to play in the

theatres of Illinois. There have been three hearings before the judiciary committee which has this bill in charge, the last being before a sub-committee appointed to report back to the general committee after due consideration.

A delegation of twelve or fifteen came on from New York and gave a very strong hearing, presenting reasons from many sides for allowing children to act on the stage. There is still to be another hearing before the general committee and it is hoped the committee may be convinced of the great harm to little children of allowing this measure to become a law. Every effort is being made in Illinois, by those who have the real interest of the child at heart, to keep what protection we have, and also to extend protection to the child engaged in peddling on the streets.¹

HARRIET M. VAN DER VAART,
Secretary.

INDIANA CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The new law is much in advance of the old, as will appear below. It gives us three-fourths of what was asked in the original bill. The ten-hour day is changed to nine. The night clause for children under sixteen applies to every occupation and is a vast advance. The age in injurious occupations is advanced to sixteen years and in some occupations for girls to eighteen, and in operating dangerous machines the age is advanced to sixteen. The following brief analysis shows what was gained and lost:

Section One. The old law prohibited children under fourteen years to work in eight classes of industry. The new law applies to every industry, except three, namely, farm and domestic work and canning fruits and vegetables. The last permits children twelve to thirteen years of age to work in canning factories during vacation—June 1 to October 1, and this permission is a backward step; but the advance in the section is much greater than the loss as it applies the fourteen-year prohibition to a vastly greater number of industries including messenger service, telegraph, telephone, delivery service, all peddling, all street trades, hotels and restaurants, office work of all kinds, theatres, bowling alleys and amusement places of all sorts; livery stables, garages, blacksmiths' and horse-shoeing, meat and other little shops and the market, railways and street car companies and many other minor employments.

Section Two. The old law restricted work to ten hours a day or sixty hours a week. The new law prohibits child work under sixteen years of age in any case over nine hours a day or fifty-four hours a week, and unless the parent consents in writing the child can work but eight hours a day or forty-eight hours a week. This amounts practically, therefore, to a nine-hour a day limitation for children fourteen or fifteen years of age.

Section Three prohibits the work of all children under sixteen after six P. M. and before seven A. M. This is all we asked, and this section is of

¹The street trades bill failed of passage; so did the bill to permit the employment of children in the theatres.—Ed.

great value to the children of the state, as it will stop night work in glass factories, messenger service, telegraph, telephone and all delivery work, canneries and in the numerous places in the larger cities where young children have been employed heretofore at night. The old law merely prevented girls working in manufacturing establishments between ten P. M. and six A. M.

Section Four relates to injurious occupations. Heretofore there were no such provisions in our law. Children under sixteen cannot work in tobacco factories, hotels, theatres and amusement places, and boys under sixteen and girls under eighteen cannot work about breweries, saloons, concert halls and where liquor is made, bottled or packed, or in making matches or high explosives. Also, girls under eighteen cannot work in any business which keeps them standing constantly.

Section Five relates to dangerous machinery and is conspicuously in advance of the old law, which applied only to running elevators. The new law prohibits children under sixteen assisting in or operating dangerous machinery. We asked it for boys under sixteen and girls under eighteen, but since few girls do this kind of work, we lost little by their age being put at sixteen. We, therefore, in this section added two years' protection to children operating dangerous machinery.

Section Six. The penalty clause was changed and makes a jail sentence compulsory for a second or subsequent offense.

Hereafter we need to repeal the canning amendment in section one and change section two to a straight eight-hour day.

Our other bills received little attention because of the overshadowing struggle on the main bill. One was an educational bill requiring children between fourteen and sixteen to go to school if not employed, and providing better proof of age. The other was to raise night messenger service to eighteen years. The bill which passed met the first section of this bill, and brought night employment up to sixteen.

CO-OPERATION.

Too high praise can hardly be given to the Indiana State Federation of Labor for its constant and zealous support of the child labor bill in the legislature. Those to whom we feel particularly indebted are Hon. John J. Keegan, whose earnest and untiring efforts put the bill through the house in its original form; Hon. John A. Masselink, to whose committee the bill was assigned; Mr. Edgar A. Perkins, president, and Mr. Clarence Gaumer, secretary of the Indiana State Federation of Labor.

Our earnest appreciation is also expressed of Mr. E. N. Clopper, the Ohio Valley secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, who worked zealously and faithfully for the passage of the bill.

We also feel the deepest gratitude toward Mrs. Grace Julian Clarke and many other women who are members of the Indiana Federation of Women's Clubs for their encouragement and effective co-operation in the work.

While all are disappointed because the bill failed to pass in its original form, still good advance has been made, for which all friends of children will be truly thankful.

MRS. O. H. LOCKWOOD,

Secretary.

KANSAS CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

We have made no new amendments this year to the child labor law, the present statute being an amended statute of 1909. We have reduced the employment of children to a minimum in the factories and workshops and other vocations mentioned in the child labor statute. An agitation for opening up the theatres to child actors and employees was defeated at the last legislature. Last year we had about twenty-one prosecutions and fifteen convictions under the present statute.

The following table of comparison with previous years indicates the continued reduction of child labor employment in manufacturing industries in this state, as a result of rigid factory inspection and the enforcement of the child labor law, after its enactment:

Year.	Total wage-earners in factories, workshops, etc.	Number of children between 14 and 16 years.
1906	27,143	909
1907	37,719	625
1908	40,303	595
1909	47,256	491
1910	55,224	139

This being an agricultural state, with only about 2,500 factories and workshops, very few of which would have occasion to employ child labor, we have not felt the necessity for further extension of the child labor law at this time; our state child labor committee has thought it better to educate the people to a thorough enforcement of the present statute before going further in this direction.

W. L. A. JOHNSON,
Secretary.

MAY 5, 1911.

KENTUCKY CHILD LABOR ASSOCIATION

The only matter which deserves mention in this report is the prosecution of theatres of a certain class for putting children on the stage.

With the growth in popularity of the "moving picture show" (we are told there are about seventy in the city of Louisville) it became the practice of the managers of these establishments to give variety to the performance by engaging children, often of tender years, to sing and dance on the stage. To escape the child labor law "amateur night" was invented. The ostensible purpose of this arrangement was, not merely to afford amusement to the patrons of the theatres, but also to afford an opportunity to boys and girls to exercise any dramatic talent of which they might conceive themselves possessed. It was accordingly held out to the public that these performers

received no pay, though it was confessed that they would compete for "prizes" offered by the management. Prosecutions inaugurated by the inspector developed the fact that these prizes were always in the form of money, and that each performer invariably secured a "prize." As a matter of fact, children with talent for this work made a practice of performing at some one of these theatres practically each night in the week, and generally had an understanding with the proprietor of each theatre in which they performed that they would appear regularly at his place on certain fixed nights in each week.

The prosecutions against these theatres were in the main successful, and appeared to have established the four following propositions of law which ought to have been sufficient to put a stop to the practice:

1. That it is illegal to employ children under fourteen years of age on the stage of a theatre at any time. "*Commonwealth vs. Walnut Street Theatre*;" Court of Frank Dacher, J. P.

2. That it is illegal to employ children between fourteen and sixteen years of age on the stage of a theatre after seven o'clock P. M. "*Commonwealth vs. Story Avenue Theatre*;" "*Commonwealth vs. John Dupre*;" Jefferson Circuit Court. In this case a fine was also imposed upon the father of the child for permitting the child to appear.

3. That "amateur nights" are a violation to the statute. "*Commonwealth vs. West Broadway Theatre*;" Court of Frank Dacher, J. P. In this case the prosecuting witness, a girl, testified that she appeared at this theatre about two nights a week, on an average, receiving no salary, but on each occasion receiving a "prize" of \$4.00 in money.

4. That a copy of the statute must be posted in each theatre. "*Commonwealth vs. Avenue Theatre*." "*Commonwealth vs. Walnut Street Theatre*." Court of Frank Dacher, J. P.

As stated above, these decisions put the labor inspector in a fair way to stop the practice entirely, but presently along came Mr. Francis Wilson, playing "*The Bachelor's Baby*," and almost shipwrecked us. The inspector haled Mr. Wilson into court and that genial gentleman so irradiated the court with the sunshine of his personality that everybody turned his back on the statute to applaud the story of Mr. Wilson's early struggles and to congratulate the young person who was the bachelor's baby each evening on being so happily situated. Mr. Wilson was dismissed amid universal approbation, the employment of juvenile Thespians received a new impetus and Pat Filburn, the inspector, had to begin his fight over again. Fortunately he has a truly Celtic proclivity for a fight and to-day he has an agreement with every theatre in the city of Louisville, where children were formerly employed, that the practice should cease. And it has ceased.

This experience has exposed what we think is a fault in our statute. It does not mention a theatre by name as one of the places where children under fourteen shall not be employed. We are pleased to note that the draft of a "Uniform Child Labor Law" recently sent out by the National Child Labor Committee, prohibits the employment of children under sixteen in a theatre.

GENERAL ENFORCEMENT.

We think it may be fairly said that the child labor law is being well observed in Kentucky. It is a matter for congratulation not only that the predictions of disaster from the adoption of this legislation are contradicted by the result, but also that the prophets of evil themselves have not only acquiesced in the regulation, but have quite generally come to regard it as desirable. The labor inspector says he is now having practically no difficulty with the large employers. The great majority of prosecutions have been against persons in a small way of business and violations by such persons are becoming more and more rare. For this result we have to thank not only the good sense of employers, but also the perseverance and courage of Mr. Filburn, the state labor inspector. It seems to us perfectly obvious that we ought to have more inspectors, certainly one more and probably three. With such a staff we believe Kentucky could show a pretty clean bill of health in respect to the employment of children.

MARCH 1, 1911.

LAFON ALLEN,
President.

LOUISIANA CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

At the present time the Louisiana State Child Labor Committee is paying seven scholarships. That is to say, seven children representing seven homes are kept in school by the committee. In these cases the home is dependent upon the child's labor for support. The committee pays weekly to the family of the child the amount of money the child would make if it were laboring in the factory. This scholarship is granted after an investigation of the facts by the factory inspector of the parish of New Orleans.

At the meeting of the state legislature last spring, an attempt was made to repeal that portion of the Louisiana child labor law prohibiting children appearing in theatres as wage-earners. The attempt was defeated, and the law remains intact.

We have about two hundred and fifty members. The revenue of our state organization is made up of dues (one dollar per member), donations from friends and five hundred dollars annually from the city of New Orleans.

APRIL 15, 1911.

C. C. HENSON,
Secretary.

MAINE CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

When the first bills in behalf of child labor reform were presented to our legislature six years ago raising the age limit from twelve to fourteen years for any child to work under any conditions; and also making the cer-

tificate of age more authentic by having it signed by some official rather than the parent, agents and lawyers of nine of the largest cotton corporations in the state, and the representatives of the canning industries appeared in opposition. They were rather amused at our presumption in interfering with their long established customs, and expected soon to convince us of the uselessness of our efforts. However we carried both measures, except that regarding age in sardine canneries, and we have carried every measure presented since. The fact that all the bills advocated by our Maine committee were passed at this session of the legislature, proves conclusively that the people of this state have been educated to the needs and conditions of the women and child workers. At the hearings, no one appeared to oppose the bills; but that does not indicate lack of opposition. The following bills were passed as amended:

(1) Vesting in the commission of labor and industry and state factory inspector, all authority heretofore vested in the commissioner of the bureau of industries and labor statistics, and in the inspector of factories, workshops, mines and quarries. The commissioner shall appoint a deputy state factory inspector and clerk of the department; and a woman factory inspector. He may also employ special agents and such other assistants as may be necessary.

(2) The exemption of canneries from the provisions of the child labor law is repealed, except in the regulation of hours.

The consolidation of the offices of commissioner of labor and factory inspector does away with conflict of authority, and the appointment of a woman inspector to look after the interests of women and children has long been sought by those interested. The Maine Federation of Women's Clubs has been active for six years in urging such an appointment. We hope we may find among its number some woman who will accept the position. All realize the importance of getting the right person in the beginning when she will be watched by both friend and foe with much interest and anxiety. Of one thing she will be sure, the sympathy and backing of a large majority of the people of the state.

ELLA JORDAN MASON,
Secretary.

MARYLAND CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

This committee is conducting through a field secretary a study of child labor conditions in the state. This will extend over two years, and will conclude with a legislative campaign for provision for adequate enforcement of the law, and perhaps also for a higher age limit and a more inclusive law. The study is intended to show the present administration of the law, and the kind and extent of existing violations. It also includes an investigation of child labor in the occupations exempt from the application of the present law, and the effect of such exemption on school attendance. Aside from this, the study is very similar to the one made last year by the Wisconsin State Bureau of Labor.

The committee feels that the administration of the present child labor law in this state is such as to make further legislation without significance; therefore it has committed itself to a plan of action which aims to remedy this condition before attempting to extend the law.

Without any action on the part of this committee, two acts affecting the employment of children were passed by the legislature of 1910. The Consumers' League claims the credit for securing the law which prohibits the employment of children for more than ten hours a day. A law intended to regulate the employment of messengers was also passed, supported by several individuals who had become interested in this one phase of child labor. But as this law makes no provision for its enforcement, it is practically without force.

There is a movement now on foot, emanating from the State Federation of Women's Clubs, to secure a state-wide compulsory education law with the age limit of 14 years. The State Child Labor Committee will co-operate with this movement as far as it will be advisable for the success of both movements.

JOSEPH C. JUDGE,
Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

Four needs were outlined a year ago—a legislative campaign to cure five deficiencies in the law, a more comprehensive state inspection system, more accurate statistics and investigations, and more enlightened public opinion. The large legislative campaign was the most important work our Executive Committee accomplished in 1910. Five bills were presented to the legislature, three of the five were passed. Another bill, which the committee opposed, was defeated.

The most far-reaching of the three laws passed is the medical inspection law, which requires that children between fourteen and sixteen years of age, when they apply for their permit to work, must be examined by a school physician. This law affects about 20,000 children yearly. The school physician must certify that each of these children is in sufficiently sound health and physically able to perform the work which he intends to do. In one year 521 minors in factories were found by state inspectors of health to be physically unfit for the work. The new law will not only be valuable in keeping out of the mills hundreds of children in poor health, but will be an additional check upon the age of the child. It was put into effect throughout the state on August first.

The street trades law was improved by imposing a penalty upon the person who is really responsible for the illegal employment, rather than upon the child. When the penalty fell upon the child, the courts were unwilling to inflict severe punishment and the law had little terror. Placing the penalty upon the adult also, is a revolution in the fundamental principles of street trade regulation.

The dangerous trades law prohibits the employment of children under eighteen in occupations declared injurious by the State Board of Health. Twenty-four industrial processes have already been declared injurious.

Two of the bills introduced by the committee were defeated—the eight-hour bill and the night-work bill. At least five thousand children, fourteen and fifteen years of age, are still employed ten hours a day, and many work at night until eleven or twelve o'clock. The eight-hour bill was opposed not only by the manufacturers, but also by the labor organizations on the ground that it would interfere with the passage of their fifty-four hour bill for women and children. The constant reduction of hours of labor has benefited fourteen-year-old mill children least of any class. In forty-three years their hours have been reduced only four hours a week,—from sixty hours in 1867 to fifty-six hours to-day.

THE ANNUAL THEATRE FIGHT.

The campaign was interrupted by the appearance for the third consecutive year of the theatre managers' bill to secure an exemption from the fundamental child labor law prohibiting the employment of children under fourteen. This bill was defeated as in previous years, but with considerably more effort on account of the one-sided publicity secured by the press agents of the theatre managers. So greatly over-emphasized was this part of our work that newspaper stories may have caused you to believe that our one purpose in life this year has been to stifle the genius of little Joseph Jeffersons and to bar Shakespeare from Boston. The system of compulsory education under fourteen has long been established in Massachusetts, and no industry has yet been granted an exemption from it. This system has been decided to be, in the words of Dr. Eliot, "universally beneficent" and the theatre managers have been unable to show any reason for exemption from it.

The plays in which children are used are very rarely such as give the child any education through that contact with the best literature of the ages, of which Francis Wilson speaks. They are generally comic operas or modern problem plays in which the parts taken by the children are silly, pert or at best pleasingly childish,—but not in the least educational. The argument that many great actors began as children is the same argument which is used for other forms of child labor. Because Lincoln and Garfield left school and went to work before they were fourteen and yet succeeded, it does not follow that the system of compulsory education is bad. Of the sixty-five stars who appeared in New York in 1909, only ten appear to have been on the stage before their fourteenth birthday. From the actors of two centuries Mr. Wilson is able to name only 144 who began as children, a very small per cent of the entire number. If the argument from the careers of great actors proves anything, it proves that genius more often develops in those who begin after fourteen. The Massachusetts Legislature has decided three times now that in Massachusetts at least, education in public schools does not stifle genius.

The amount of schooling required before children can go to work is less in Massachusetts than that prescribed by eleven other states, which require a certain test in elementary arithmetic, geography and spelling. In Massachusetts the only requirement is the reading of simple sentences from the Second or Third Reader and the writing of a sentence. Factory inspectors state that they often find children at work in the factories who cannot make themselves understood in English, and for whom they have to get an interpreter. Attention ought to be given to this matter of the educational requirement as soon as possible.

Some defects in the system of issuing age certificates, proving age, have yet to be cured, as well as defects in the system of enforcing night school attendance.

SUCCESS OF NIGHT MESSENGER BILL.

It seemed best to the Executive Committee to concentrate our legislative efforts this year upon one principal measure,—the bill to prohibit the employment of minors in the night messenger service. Child labor in mills ruins children physically and mentally,—the night messenger service ruins children morally. Wherever public prostitution is found the night messenger service is invariably used as a part of the system. Messengers are familiar with the houses and with the cheap hotels to which prostitution is being driven, are sent to and from them with messages and come into the closest contact with the most degrading side of life.

A part of the night messenger's business is of course the delivery of telegrams of great importance, but this is only a small part. The calls which appeal most to the messenger are those "specials" in which he receives large tips for service connected with immorality or crime. Chinese restaurants, opium dens, kitchen barrooms and places of assignation are the field in which he works. The messenger companies attempted to draw the teeth of the bill by reducing the age limit from twenty-one to eighteen years. The Legislative Committee which had the matter in charge was at first very strongly in favor of the eighteen-year limit. Their opinion was changed, however, through the efforts of a special auxiliary committee and through the efforts of 275 organizations and clubs throughout the state which had endorsed the bill.

Considerable debate in the House of Representatives occurred in regard to the age limit, but the legislature was finally convinced that the twenty-one year limit was necessary and the bill was passed in that form.

NEED FOR A CO-ORDINATED SYSTEM OF INSPECTION.

The need of a more adequate system of inspection to discover violations of the child labor laws has long been evident. The commission appointed this year to investigate the subject has heard a large amount of evidence which reveals clearly the insufficiency of the present inspection. The system is too much decentralized; a part of the work is done by a division of a department of the District Police, another by a department of the

State Board of Health, and other parts by local truant officers, school departments and police. There is no central bureau of experts to consolidate these various agencies.

Health inspectors find children under fourteen at work and are not required to report them. A police inspector is not required to report children physically unfit for their work. The health inspector who examines the child in the factory is not in touch with the school physician who examined him before he entered the factory. The police inspector who inspects the working certificate is not in connection with the truant officer who issued it. In one city, a number of forged birth certificates were found, and it is probable that there are many similar violations throughout the state.

The inspectors themselves state that when they first look at the children they find sometimes as many as one-third or one-half who appear to be under fourteen. The children are found to have certificates, however, and the inspectors rely upon these.

We need a consolidation of all these authorities under a central expert department, with actual control over state inspectors and advisory control over local authorities. It is estimated that there are about 30,000 children between fourteen and sixteen years of age employed in Massachusetts. Of these only about 17,000 are discovered by the inspection system. The double system is largely to blame for this. Consolidate the two groups of inspectors, arrange their work effectively and a long step will be taken toward covering the entire field.

Last year we secured the passage of a law prohibiting the employment of minors in dangerous occupations. The State Board of Health can look after such occupations as are injurious to the health internally. These injuries from dusts and acids are, however, less numerous and less important than the accidents which are constantly befalling children who work at dangerous machines. Medical inspectors do not and cannot concern themselves with the construction of dangerous machinery. The only logical way to handle this most important matter is to have one Board which shall concern itself with all the dangers in factories,—it to use medical experts as far as necessary to advise about dangers to health, mechanical experts to advise about the mechanics of dangerous machinery and one body of inspectors to enforce such regulations as are adopted.

RICHARD K. CONANT,
Secretary.

MICHIGAN CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The state legislature in the session recently ended, passed an act changing some of the details of our child labor law. The method of issuing working papers was slightly modified. No children under eighteen years of age may hereafter be employed in the messenger service between

the hours of 10 P. M. and 5 A. M. A clause was inserted allowing traveling theatrical companies to employ children of any age.

Little interest is manifested in the state in regard to child labor. Our big problem is in connection with the enforcement of existing legislation.

FRANK T. CARLTON,

Secretary.

MAY 6, 1911.

INTER-CHURCH CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Many interesting discussions have been held on such subjects as neighborhood and social settlement work, playgrounds, industries of children, making our churches and schools more effective as social centers, and housing conditions.

Members of the Committee are doing good work along all these lines. A special committee has been appointed to work with a similar committee from the Board of Trade to investigate and report upon the housing conditions in our city. Many of the schools are being used as social centres, for lectures, clubs, and various other things, including night schools. We also have Fathers', as well as Mothers' Clubs, organized to promote the welfare of children.

The state law which went into effect two years ago, limiting the hours of work for women and children to fifty-four a week, is working satisfactorily. It was contested in one or two instances, but the State Supreme Court sustained its constitutionality.

At the recent session of the legislature, an act was passed amending the Child Labor Law. The age of night messengers was raised from sixteen to eighteen years, when employed between 10 P. M. and 5 A. M.

A bill to provide means whereby children of indigent parents, within school age, may attend school, was also passed, and signed by the Governor. This bill provides that not more than three dollars per week to any one child, nor more than six dollars per week to any one family, may be paid during the school year.

This committee will continue its membership as sustaining member of the National Child Labor Committee.

MRS. H. GAYLORD HOLT,

Chairman.

MAY 15, 1911.

MINNESOTA CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

Early in the session this committee introduced, through the Labor Committee of the House, a new child labor bill. This bill made a number of

necessary changes for better enforcement, eliminating several ambiguous clauses, and repealing superfluous sections. It also eliminated the poverty plea as an excuse for granting certificates of employment; it established a minimum fine of \$25; it required an examination of fitness for employment by a physician designated by the school board; it prohibited the employment of girls under 21 years of age as messengers and boys under 18 as night messengers; it had incorporated the censorship features of the New York law relative to children employed in theatres and provided for an eight-hour day.

The bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously, and was held by the committee in the Senate for several days. The committee amended it, making the penalty a misdemeanor, on the grounds that the constitution of the state prohibited excessive punishment, and the point was raised that this might invalidate the measure.

This delay resulted in no action being taken until the last night of the session, when the bill was passed unanimously under suspension of rules. The amendment of the Senate made it necessary to return the bill to the House for concurrence. There were only two other bills before it when a motion to adjourn was made and carried, so the bill was lost. Another fifteen minutes and Minnesota would have had the best child labor law of any state in the Union.

GAINS.

However, the legislature passed a new compulsory education law, which is a decided improvement over the old. It provides, among other things that a census of children of school age must be taken annually by the clerk of the school board in every school district. Applications for excuses must be made in writing to and allowed by a vote of the board. Poverty is no longer an excuse. Opposition to the measure has been partly eliminated by permitting the excuse of children over fourteen in rural districts, between April and November, to work at home; and by permitting excuses for religious instruction for children of all ages. The county superintendent is expected primarily to enforce the law, but the Commissioner of Labor is also required to assist, and is given power to revoke improper excuses. Employers of children not excused may be prosecuted under this act.

The delinquency law of this state was amended to permit any resident of the state to file information. This will enable factory inspectors to act in all parts of the state in cases of delinquency.

A bill was passed requiring local truant officers to file an annual report with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, of all cases investigated, and the disposition thereof. This will enable us to gather more adequate statistics on the number and causes of truants and non-attendants.

DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CHILDREN EMPLOYED.

The Twelfth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor, recently issued, shows that the child labor situation in the state is steadily improving. The

Bureau made the most complete inspection in its history during the past two years, and shows the total number of wage-earners to be 283,937. Of this number 1,137, or four-tenths of one per cent, were children under sixteen.

The total number of employment certificates issued by superintendents of schools was 1,707 for the year ending July 1, 1909, and 1,545 for the year ending July 1, 1910. The latter number is a reduction in two years of 15.4 per cent.

The reasons ascribed for granting certificates were as follows:

	1909.	Per cent of total.	1910.	Per cent of total.
Poverty	1125	65.9	955	61.8
Graduates of eighth grade.....	302	17.7	303	19.6
School record over seventh grade...	264	15.5	273	17.7
Doctor's certificate	11	2.9	6	2.9
Incorrigibility	2	1	²
Attending business college	2	²
Reasons not given	3	²	5	²
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 1707	<hr/> 100.0	<hr/> 1545	<hr/> 100.0

From this it will be seen that the number issued for poverty decreased and the number issued to graduates of the eighth grade increased. The increase is more marked when considered in conjunction with the reduction in the total number of certificates issued.

PROSECUTIONS.

In the number of prosecutions for violation of the child labor law, the showing of the department is very poor. Only nine employers were prosecuted. This was partly due to the fact that the law provided that where a child was apparently under sixteen years of age the employer had ten days in which to furnish evidence of age. Failure to do so was to be *prima facie* evidence of guilt. The section relating to the penalty for violation contained these words, "or whoever continues to employ any child after being notified by a truant officer or the Commissioner of Labor, shall for every day that such employment continues, be fined not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$20.00."

The prosecuting attorneys of the larger counties held that no prosecution could be had until notice was served on the employer, and he could safely employ a child until discovered by an inspector. What was intended was to place the burden of proof upon the employer, but under their construction it became a protection from prosecution. It was for this reason, among others, that an effort was made to adopt a new law. The Child Labor Committee is greatly disappointed at the results, after being so near success, and

²Less than one per cent. Total aggregation .9 of 1 per cent.

the work will be carried on indefatigably during the next two years with hope of better success.

F. E. HOFFMAN,
*Statistician, Minnesota Bureau of
Labor, Industries and Commerce.*

APRIL 19, 1911.

CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE ALLIANCE OF MISSOURI

This Alliance urged in the legislative session just closed the passage of two bills, and it was largely through our efforts that they finally became law. They are given in detail elsewhere in this volume, by E. N. Clopper, Secretary for the Ohio Valley States of the National Committee.

BRUCE STARKE,
Secretary.

APRIL 18, 1911.

NEBRASKA CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

During the last session of the Nebraska Legislature, several bills were submitted by the State Labor Commissioner, with the endorsement of the State Labor Committee and other organizations. They were aimed to strengthen the Labor Bureau, as to factory inspection and better regulation of female labor; but so many political questions engaged the attention of the law-makers that humanitarian measures were not taken into account. We have been very chary of bringing the child labor law up for amendment, not caring to take any chance of having it trifled with; and we hoped to better the situation in the particulars mentioned by amending the general labor bureau law.

However, up to this time the child labor law, complemented by the compulsory education and the juvenile delinquency acts, is doing its work fairly well, except it is the business of no one in particular to watch its daily enforcement, and we had hoped to secure this through a woman factory inspector.

JOHN J. RYDER,
Secretary.

MAY 8, 1911.

NEW YORK CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE GAINS.

At the 1910 session of the New York Legislature, in addition to a number of administration measures strengthening the labor law relative to sanitation of factories, two important child labor bills were enacted into law. The

most important was the Murray Night Messenger Bill, prohibiting employment, in cities of the first and second class, of boys under 21 years of age in the distribution or transmission of goods or messages between 10 P. M. and 5 A. M. Practically no opposition to this restriction was incurred. The evidence presented by the agents of the National Child Labor Committee at the legislative hearing indicated so clearly the imperative need of removing all boys from night work in our large cities, that the bill was passed unanimously, one member of the legislature even advocating a similar prohibition against day messenger service. The other bill amended the mercantile law so as to bring under its jurisdiction children employed as pin boys in bowling alleys or as ushers, checkers, or vendors of articles in places of amusement.

Through the combined efforts of labor unions, consumers' leagues and child labor committees, a bill introduced at the request of proprietors of canning factories, to make an exemption in favor of longer hours for female workers over sixteen in this industry, was defeated after a hard fight.

INVESTIGATIONS.

During the summer of 1910 with the co-operation of the National Child Labor Committee and the National and State Consumers' Leagues, an investigation was conducted, of the employment of women and children in the canning factories of the state. About thirty factories were visited, the investigators hiring out and working as regular employees. Much valuable data was thus secured. Conditions of work last summer were found as bad as in former years with respect to the employment of children five years of age and upwards in the sheds adjoining the canning factory proper; and the employment of girls over sixteen, excessive hours and during the night in the factory proper. Supplementing this summer investigation, an exhaustive inquiry was made in three Buffalo schools, as to the attendance and grade of the pupils who went to work in nearby canning factory sheds during the 1910 season. It was shown that of 103 cannery child workers, each missed on an average over seven weeks of schooling, and as a result, more than sixty per cent of the cases, either failed of promotion, or were conditioned. The data secured in both investigations are now being compiled for a legislative campaign, the purpose of which is to secure legislation to bring clearly under the law's jurisdiction, the employment of children in cannery factory sheds.

The Committee has continued the plan of having two paid representatives, one in Manhattan and one in Brooklyn, located at the health office where working papers are issued to children, to aid them in securing satisfactory documentary proof of age. This service has been much appreciated by the officials and by the children themselves. As a source of information regarding the actual enforcement of the laws, we find this work valuable.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Committee has also continued, by means of scholarships, to aid families which otherwise might put their children to work contrary to law.

These scholarships—a weekly cash allowance of \$1.00 to \$3.00—are awarded only after careful investigation to such cases in which the facts indicate that the enforcement of the child labor law is the chief factor in the family's hardship. Scholarships are conditioned upon regular school attendance and are continued until the child is qualified for legal employment or until improving conditions in the home warrant withdrawal of outside aid. Last year 103 such scholarships were awarded. A much larger number were refused because investigation showed no real need, or that relief was more within the scope of regular relief societies. These scholarships also furnish valuable evidence regarding law enforcement by school officials and labor department inspectors.

EXTENSION OF WORK.

The New York Committee has added to its force, Mr. Zenas L. Potter, as field secretary, with headquarters at Buffalo. He is giving special attention to a study of law enforcement in the western part of the state, and will co-operate in the legislative campaign at Albany. As a result of his efforts a strong Buffalo Child Labor Committee, composed of leading citizens, has been organized as an auxiliary to the State Committee.

PROGRAM FOR 1911.

The Committee expects to continue its various activities. It will seek to bring cannery-shed child-workers under the law; to amend the newsboy law; to raise the minimum age from ten to twelve years; to prohibit work after 8 P. M., instead of 10 P. M., and to secure the appointment of a legislative commission for a study of the problem of manufacturing in tenement houses, particularly in New York City. It is further expected that the work of the Committee will be strengthened in the larger up-state cities, through investigations conducted by the field secretary, and through the organization of additional auxiliaries.

GEORGE A. HALL,
Secretary.

NORTH CAROLINA CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The North Carolina child labor law of 1907 provides that "no child between 12 and 13 years of age shall be employed or work in a factory, except in apprenticeship capacity, and then only after having attended school four months in the preceding twelve months;" that "not exceeding 66 hours shall constitute a week's work in all factories and manufacturing establishments in this state;" and that "no boy or girl under fourteen years of age shall work in a factory between the hours of eight P. M. and five A. M."

In 1909 our Child Labor Committee tried to have the age limit raised to 14 years, to prohibit night work for women and children under 16 years

of age, to provide some machinery by which factories could be inspected, and to reduce the working hours. The bill making provision for these reforms passed the North Carolina House of Representatives during the legislative session of 1909, but failed in the Senate.

The North Carolina Child Labor Committee met at Raleigh on September 30, 1910, and formulated the following legislative program for 1911:

1. That the age limit be raised to 14 years.
2. Reduction of the present 66 hours a week to not exceeding 60 hours a week and making not over 10 hours a day's work.
3. Prohibiting night work for children under 16.
4. A provision for factory inspection under the State Department of Labor.

In January, Hon. R. H. Battle, of Wake county, introduced a bill in the North Carolina Legislature, embodying the committee's program. This bill was strenuously opposed by the Manufacturers' Association and failed to receive a majority vote in either branch of the General Assembly. But a separate bill making 60 hours instead of 66 a week's work received a majority vote of both branches of the Assembly and finally became a law. This also received considerable opposition from the Manufacturers' Association, which urged that no labor legislation be enacted then on the ground that the cotton textile industry was languishing, that the mill operatives had not asked for any legislation, that the children were better off in the mills than on the farms from whence they came, and that those who advocated the proposed legislation were fanatics and visionaries who would cripple the state's second largest industry if listened to. The result is that North Carolina has still to win the battle for the factory children, two years hence or at some future time.

APRIL 28, 1911.

CHARLES L. COON,
Secretary.

OHIO CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The Ohio Child Labor Committee takes pleasure in reporting for the year 1910, the passage of two important bills by the state legislature. One of these new laws provides that boys under the age of eighteen years shall not be employed as messengers anywhere in the state between the hours of 9 P. M. and 6 A. M. The object of this measure is to prevent the employment of youths in connection with the evil features of city life after dark, inasmuch as the night messenger service consists very largely in running errands for the characters of the underworld. The legislature passed this bill after having heard the evidence gathered by the National Child Labor Committee in a study of conditions existing in the larger cities of the state. This provision was made to apply to boys only, inasmuch as the child labor law already prohibited the employment of girls under eighteen years at night in any gainful occupation.

The other new law secured relates to the issuance of employment certificates to children fourteen to sixteen years of age. It provides that such children must have passed satisfactorily an examination in the studies prescribed for the fifth grade of the common schools, in order to be eligible for the employment certificate, and in default of such educational qualification such children must attend school until sixteen years of age. Children fourteen to sixteen years of age must either attend school or be regularly employed; to aid in the enforcement of this provision the law requires that the employer must return the employment certificate of a child to the office of the Superintendent of Schools within three days of the date of the child's withdrawal or dismissal from his employ, thereby keeping the Superintendent of Schools informed as to the industrial history of such children and enabling the truant officers to keep in school those children under sixteen years of age who are not employed. This last feature of the new law has already been endorsed by some employers who state that it contributes to make children more constant in their work because they do not like to return to the office of the Superintendent of Schools to secure a renewal of the certificate. The law provides also that before receiving its employment certificate a child must secure its prospective employer's written agreement to employ the child in conformity with the state child labor law.

The movement for industrial education has been given a decided impetus in Ohio by a further provision of this law which authorizes Boards of Education to require children between fourteen and sixteen years of age who are regularly employed to attend part-time day schools not to exceed eight hours a week, between 8 A. M. and 5 P. M. during the school term. Such a school has already been established in Cincinnati for machine shop apprentices and another similar school for girls will be established this year.

ALBERT H. FREIBERG,
Chairman.

MAY 1, 1911.

THE WARREN (O.) CHILD LABOR LEAGUE

There is little to report from the League. The Superintendent of Schools reported a plan a year ago that he thought would enable him, together with the truant officer, to accomplish better results than hitherto. He was given free hand to carry out the plan, and it has been thought best to wait until the end of the school year before inquiring for results. If the work can be done as he proposes, it will be done as part of his official duty, not as a member of the League.

PHEBE T. SUTLIFF,
Acting Chairman.

MAY 2, 1911.

OREGON CHILD LABOR COMMISSION

Sentiment in favor of the restriction of child labor through legislation is steadily growing in strength, as well as in standard in this state. At the last session of the legislature—February, 1911—amendments were offered

placing the entire enforcement of the law in the hands of the commission of five members all of whom serve without pay with the exception of the secretary who, after May 20, will receive a salary of \$125.00 per month and traveling and office expenses. For the first time in the history of the law—originally passed in 1903—there has been an appropriation for the child labor work. Under the old law, the issuance of age and schooling certificates was in the hands of school superintendents and it was part of their duty to be advised as to the character of the work the child was about to do. As it is an added burden for the school people and manifestly unfair to expect them to be acquainted with factory conditions or the working conditions in shops or stores or messenger service, it was deemed wise to place the full responsibility on the Child Labor Commission, whose direct duty it is to know all about the working conditions, as well as to be perfectly sure as to the physical fitness of the child who is to do the work.

The messenger service was also a troublesome factor, although for the past year, the Western Union has not employed boys under the age of 16 in its service. When, however, an effort was made to raise the age limit to correspond with the New York law, war was promptly declared, and a lobby sent to the legislature to defeat the bill which offered the amendment raising the age limit for day work from 14 to 16 and for night work between 10 P. M. and 5 A. M. to 18 years of age. The bill, however, was passed and Oregon, as far as telegraph, telephone and public messenger service is concerned, is in the front rank.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION AGE-LIMIT RAISED TO 15 YEARS.

Another important advance came through the amendment to the compulsory education law, which raised the compulsory age limit from 14 to 15 for the entire school term. This makes it impossible for any child under the age of 15 years to receive a permit for work during the school term. According to the compulsory education law, truant officers are also held responsible for the enforcement of the child labor law and it will be the policy of the Commission to co-operate very closely with these officers in the outside communities. As the bulk of the work is in Portland, most of the factories being located there, the office of the Commission will be in that city, and it will be necessary to maintain supervision from that point over the balance of the state.

One of the most hopeful things which has grown out of the child labor agitation in this state, is the increased interest in industrial education. We have in Portland a splendid trade school, and it is an astonishing fact that many a child has been saved from the store and the factory through his application for a permit to go to work. He was told of the possibilities of learning a trade in the trade school, and it was an exception to have him return for his permit, once induced to visit the trade school. It has been a most serious reflection on the present educational system, that children who saw no future for them in the regular grades, were so keen to appreciate the advantages offered in a school "that showed us how to do things," instead of "jest tellin' us how."

The Commission has adopted the policy of avoiding arrests, preferring to hold the offending firm to the promise—under threat of prosecution for the first offense as well—that if allowed to go this time, there would be no further violation. In this way, a number are on the parole list, as it were, and are careful to observe the law. When children falsify as to their ages, they are brought into the Juvenile Court, and the parent as well as the child, admonished by the judge. With Child Labor Commission, Juvenile Court and truant officers working in close co-operation on the one hand, and with Charity Organization Society and the Consumers' League with its child labor scholarships co-operating with the Commission on the other hand, we bid fair to accomplish good for the children and for the state.

MILLIE R. TRUMBULL,

MAY 13, 1911.

Secretary.

PENNSYLVANIA CHILD LABOR ASSOCIATION

The Pennsylvania Child Labor Association has continued the policy established in 1909, of doing its work from two offices, one in Philadelphia, where the secretary is located, and one in Pittsburg, in charge of the assistant secretary, who is also secretary of the Allegheny County Child Labor Association. The expenses of the Pittsburg office, including the salary of the assistant secretary, a total of about \$2,000, are carried by the local association in that city, while the expenses of the main office and the general state work, \$6,000 a year, are raised chiefly in Philadelphia.

ENFORCEMENT.

The year 1909-1910 being a non-legislative year in Pennsylvania, the Association's work was principally concerned with the enforcement of the compulsory education law and the child labor law passed in 1909. School officials had had the new duty placed upon them of issuing employment certificates, but in this, as well as in the enforcement of the compulsory education law, they were entirely unsupervised by any state authority. As a result, the certificates were issued at first with all degrees of carefulness and carelessness. One school superintendent, in a city of 18,000 population, signed batches of certificates in blank and passed them out to the mills for the use of their children. He was prosecuted and fined. Many ignored the specific requirement that birth or baptismal records must be produced in every possible case as proof of age, while the most varying interpretations were placed upon the requirement that the child must be able to read and write intelligently in the English language, some using second readers as a test and one official at least requiring that the child must have passed through the seventh grade.

In order to supply in an unofficial way the supervision which was so much needed, the secretary of the Child Labor Association traveled exten-

sively during the spring of 1910. He found almost all school officials glad to learn the purpose of the law as to the issuing of certificates, and to bring their standards up to that established by the more careful officials. It was harder work to get an enforcement of the compulsory education law started in places where it had always been ignored, for this matter rested usually, not with the school superintendent, but with the more or less politically controlled members of the school board. It is pleasant to record, however, that in two districts—one a city of some importance—attendance officers were employed for the first time and put to work as a direct result of representations made to the school boards on behalf of the Child Labor Association. In another large city a complete reconstruction of the compulsory education system was made, the superintendent of schools making two trips to Philadelphia to confer with the secretary of the Child Labor Association on the subject.

In Scranton, the third city in size in the state, the compulsory education law was practically a dead letter, no prosecutions against either parents or children having been instituted for over two years. The public charge by an attendance officer that she was restrained by members of the school board when she attempted to prosecute, went uncontradicted. Repeated visits to that city were needed in order to bring together those who favored the enforcement of this important law and to make their sentiment so effective as to force a change of policy. That change took place on September 1, 1910, when the number of attendance officers was increased from two to five, and a systematic enforcement of the law along approved lines was inaugurated. That the politicians' hands have been taken off the attendance officers, is indicated by the fact that besides a score or more of parents fined for not keeping their children in school, five have been put in jail for this offense.

The most important accomplishment in Pittsburg and Allegheny City has been the transfer of the power to issue employment certificates from the thirty or more principals of schools to two men in the offices of the two school superintendents in these cities. While the issuing of the certificates was decentralized, many irregularities and great variation in standards existed. Issuance from two central points has been a great gain. In Philadelphia all certificates are issued from a single office. In all places in the state, parochial school principals are authorized to issue certificates to their children, a right which has been abused in a few instances known to the Association.

PENDING BILLS.

The fall and winter of 1910-1911 has been given over to a legislative campaign for three bills—a mines bill, fixing a sixteen-year age limit for work inside of coal mines; a night messenger bill, fixing a twenty-one-year age limit, and the so-called "glass exception" bill, repealing the "exception" in the existing law under which the glass industry is allowed to employ boys at and the night messenger bill will pass and there is a fighting chance that and the night messenger bill will pass and there is a fighting chance that the glass bill will pass. It is being vigorously opposed by the glass manu-

facturers who were able to defeat the same proposition in 1905, 1907 and in 1909. The Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies are opposing the night messenger bill, though the latter company has announced that it is not opposed to an eighteen-year limit for night work.

The Pittsburg office of the Association has been in charge successively of Mr. W. W. Keller and Miss Clara E. Farr.

During the year, the Association has issued the following publications: "Compulsory Education in Pennsylvania," "Financial Statement, 1909-1910," "Three Boys: The Boy in the Tenderloin, The Boy at the Glass Tank, The Boy in the Pit;" "More Facts About the Three Boys," "What the Government Says About Child Labor in Glass Factories," (Extracts from the report of the United States Bureau of Labor, published March 10, 1911).

In addition, the following leaflets published by the National Child Labor Committee have been prepared by the secretary of the Pennsylvania Child Labor Association: "Newsboy Life," "Both Sides of the Poverty Question in Child Labor Cases," "Night Work and Day Sleep."

FRED S. HALL,
Secretary.

APRIL 10, 1911.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY CHILD LABOR ASSOCIATION

Supplementing the report of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Child Labor Association, the following facts connected with the Allegheny Child Labor Association are of interest:

Six thousand circular letters enclosing the leaflet "The Three Boys" with a return post card requesting further information about the three bills pending in the legislature this session were mailed to residents of Western Pennsylvania. One thousand eight hundred of these cards returned showed appreciable interest in the bills. To these persons and several hundred others was sent a circular letter urging that they write their representatives to support our bills.

The Civic Club of Allegheny county, the Associated Charities, the Pittsburgh Civic Commissioner and individuals, at our request, have written the committee on manufactures in the legislature and the Allegheny county members of the house asking their support of our bills. Good newspaper publicity has also been received.

A new mailing list for Allegheny county and Western Pennsylvania now includes approximately four thousand names.

A Dickens' Carnival given early in March for the association netted over \$1,500 as well as good publicity. A financial appeal just sent out is bringing appreciable returns.

Miss Lillian A. Quinn, formerly of the Charity Organization Society of Buffalo, will succeed the undersigned in office after May sixth.

CLARA E. FARR,
Secretary.

MAY 4, 1911.

RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE ON CHILD LABOR

This year the Committee on Industrial and Social Conditions of the State Federation of Women's Clubs in co-operation with the local Consumers' League and the Bureau of Social Research, by keeping in touch with the National Child Labor Committee's work, has endeavored to put a bill through the Rhode Island legislature that will forbid the employment of boys under twenty-one years of age in the night messenger service after ten P. M. and before five A. M. This measure has passed the house and its supporters believe will be carried in the senate before the close of the legislative season.

An investigation by the agent of the National Child Labor Committee showed that boys in the service here had the same vicious contact with the evils of night life that had been uncovered in other cities. In Providence by the aid of the agent a youthful night clerk of one of the telegraph companies together with an old offender were arrested for illegally selling cocaine at night.

Several hundred people attended the meeting of the New England presidents and committees of the Federation of Women's Clubs, held in Providence, January 25th and 26th; during its sessions the exhibit of the National Child Labor Committee was conspicuously shown in two rooms of the conference building. Later the exhibit was put up in the lecture hall of the Providence public library, and, through the churches, labor organizations and press, attention was called to its impressive display of pictures and charts illustrative of the evils of child labor in the various industries over our country.

MORE UNIFORM LAWS IN NEW ENGLAND.

Reports on child labor conditions in the six New England states were given at the conference by the chairmen of the several state committees of the federation. These reports followed the lines of investigation worked out by the American Association for Labor Legislation with the aim of showing the lack of uniformity existing in the several states, and the value and need of securing for a section of country so closely knit by commercial and industrial ties, more uniform laws. The conference voted to use its influence in this direction and to continue to act as a conference body in the furtherance of better child labor laws in New England.

Through the courtesy of the secretary of the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, its file of records was put at the disposal of the National Child Labor Committee in its investigation of the number of children acting during a specified week on the stage in Providence and Pawtucket. A study of the year's file showed that seventy licenses had been granted by the mayors of the two cities during the year. As some of the licenses were held by children acting on different occasions, the number of individual children was reduced to fifty-two, more than half of them living out of this state.

The report of the state factory inspector for 1910 gives the number of children under sixteen years working in factories, mills and business establishments in the state as 5,699. This constitutes 3.6 per cent. of the total number of workers. In the textile industries, however, where the major portion of the children are employed, the ratio is 6 per cent. For the year 1909 it was 5.8 per cent. The decrease in the number of adult workers in the textile industries for 1910 was put at 3,750, while the children were reduced by but sixty-six.

The legislation secured last year requiring among other improvements an educational test (ability to read and write simple sentences in English) from all children up to sixteen years of age, went into effect the first of January, 1911. The report of the Providence truant officer shows that in 1910 his office issued 138 employment certificates to children who had not been to our schools; 476 to children of fourteen and over who had not completed the primary school grades (first to fourth), and 2,853 to others who had not reached the eighth or final grade in elementary school work.

It is believed the educational test will send the children more regularly to school and to schools where the studies are conducted in English.

ANNIE H. BARUS,
Chairman.

VERMONT BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The Vermont branch was organized in Burlington on September 15th, 1910. A constitution was adopted and the following officers were duly elected: Mr. Clark C. Fitts, of Brattleboro, chairman; Prof. G. H. Perkins of Burlington, vice-chairman; Miss Julia Smith of Burlington, treasurer, and Mrs. Anna Hawks Putnam of Bennington, secretary.

Through the able efforts of Mr. Fitts a bill was drafted and presented to the legislature at Montpelier during its recent session. It was passed with very little opposition, except in the Senate, and is now a law.

It raised the age limit to fourteen years for children in any railroad company, mill, factory, quarry or workshop, wherein are employed exceeding ten persons.

A section of the old law was amended by adding the word "hotel and bowling alley" to the former occupations that needed certificates for employment up to sixteen years of age.

A section concerning dangerous machinery was introduced, limiting the age to sixteen when children could be employed around specified machinery.

Employers may be obliged by certain officials to furnish age certificates and children may be withdrawn from employment until such certificates are furnished.

An intensive study of child labor has been conducted in Brattleboro this winter under the leadership of Mr. J. R. Howard, Jr. An exhaustive questionnaire was used and many important statistics were gathered.

Through the efforts of the superintendent of schools in Bennington, a number of children were taken out of the mills this spring, and the law more rigidly enforced, than it has been in some years.

ANNA HAWKS PUTNAM,
Secretary.

MAY 1, 1911.

WEST VIRGINIA CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

The legislature of West Virginia, in 1911, passed a new child labor law which is much better than the old.

The State Committee intends taking a stand for its enforcement, as we have the co-operation of the State Superintendent of Public Schools.

The new law places the examination and the duty of issuing working permits to children under the supervision of the school authorities. Heretofore, the parents' or guardian's signature was all that was required. This new system, we feel, will give satisfactory results if the next legislature will pass a factory inspection bill. At present all inspection is in the hands of the Labor Commissioner, and his report shows no child labor conditions existing in West Virginia. He has never prosecuted a single case, although he has served several terms in this capacity.

West Virginia needs a stronger child labor committee. The present committee is planning a large public meeting this fall.

NOLA MCKINNEY,
Secretary.

MAY 16, 1911.